Start by NUMBERING the paragraphs in Mukherjee’s essay, “Two Ways to Belong in America.” There are 15 paragraphs.

Read and ANNOTATE the essay. (I’ll grade annotations on Friday!)

Respond to the following questions and complete the attached prep notes.

1. Word Study- Google the word “mongrelization.” What does it mean? In paragraph 5, Mukherjee says that many view her books as “unapologetic …. texts for cultural and psychological ‘mongrelization.’” What does this mean? Why does she say that she “celebrates” that word?
2. Make a list of specific qualities behaviors, and beliefs for each of the two sisters. What similarities and differences are evident?
3. If we apply our essential question to Mukherjee and her sister, how has society’s expectations and prejudices affected their personal identities?
4. BIG PICTURE- We’ve looked at multiple texts that were all part of this same conversation. How do society’s stereotypes and assumptions affect our sense of self-worth and personal identity? How would each of the authors we have read answer this question? How would you answer this question?

List the texts we have read. How would that author answer the question?

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Now you answer the question! How have society’s stereotypes and assumptions affected you?